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"The Uighur people are opposed to terrorism and violence because we ourselves are victims of terrorism," testified Rebiya Kadeer, the president of the World Uighur Congress and the American Uighur Association. "The Chinese government has used our Islamic faith against us and labeled Uighurs terrorists to justify crackdowns and security sweeps as part of the war on terror."

Kadeer was imprisoned in China for six years and exiled in 2005 for her efforts to draw attention to the Uighur plight.

"Chinese restrictions on peaceful religious activity and expression in Xinjiang are particularly egregious and draconian in scope," **observed Felice Gaer, the chairwoman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.**